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Report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics. The Commission is requested to comment on the progress in tourism statistics.

* E/CN.3/2004/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2003/24), chap. I.A, para. 1.

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Report of the World Tourism Organization on the Development of Tourism Statistics

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I. Role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics

1. The specific role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics has been recognized officially at the international level, and has been formalized through the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization,[1] which in its article 13 establishes their respective roles and their interaction and collaboration. This role encompasses three major functions: the setting of standards, the promotion of the implementation of such standards, and the dissemination of tourism statistics collected through the World Tourism Organization. These functions are further discussed in section II of the present report.

2. It had been accepted that, from an economic point of view, tourism needed to be viewed from a demand perspective as a social phenomenon emerging from the activity of visitors. In order to measure the economic effects and impacts of this demand in a uniform way, over all activities and worldwide, it was necessary to develop a set of basic concepts, classifications and aggregates to make possible the identification of the phenomenon, and present it in a language that would be comparable with that used in other areas and uniform over different socio-geographical universes.

3. Tourism analysts have tended to develop their own conceptual frameworks, and a certain marginalization was observed in the past. The fact that much emphasis was given to the particularities of tourism made it impossible to study the phenomenon in terms of categories used for other economic activities.

4. As stated in article 13 of the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, the World Tourism Organization has been recognized "as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system". Such integration would be its specific responsibility and concern. The main endeavour of the World Tourism Organization has therefore been and in the future will continue to be: to consider the phenomenon, its actors and its effects in such a way as to enable a unique language to be used among all the stakeholders. This encompasses the design and development of a system of tourism statistics in such a way as to make its components (concepts, classifications and aggregates) compatible with other conceptual frameworks commonly used to describe other phenomena.

5. With respect to this concern, there was also the need to include the economic measurement of tourism within the mainstream of the measurement of economic activities, mainly the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).[2] This guided the World Tourism Organization towards the establishment of a recommended framework within which to develop a tourism satellite account that would be applicable in all countries in order to facilitate the comparison of tourism to other economic activities, and to make possible comparison among different countries.

6. Nevertheless, the setting of standards for statistical measurements is insufficient: if these are to be applied, the activity should be associated with concrete actions leading to the promotion of the implementation of these standards, such as the development of general guidelines on specific issues based on best practices or comparative research analysis, further documentation and deeper insight

into the concepts, definitions and classifications, seminars and workshops, technical assistance etc. A basic element in this process, although of a very different nature, is the inter-institutional cooperation of national tourism administrations with other governmental bodies such as national statistical offices, central banks, migration/interior authorities and private sector representatives.

7. Lastly, these actions should lead to an improvement of world statistics concerning tourism, disseminated through the World Tourism Organization, in terms of their effective content and comparability of methodologies, concepts and consequently measurements. Coverage of tourism statistics has long been limited to the collection of movements of travellers at international borders and global values of expenditure by foreign travellers in the economic territory and by national travellers abroad; a sharpening of the concepts and definitions of tourism, encompassing also the activities of resident visitors within their country of residence, the setting of standards and the promotion of their implementation would lead to improvements in the coverage, quality and comparability of the data disseminated through the World Tourism Organization and thus to their usefulness in, and relevance to, describing the phenomenon in all its dimensions.

II. Implementation of the main functions of the World Tourism Organization

A. Setting of standards

8. The preface to the 1978 publication entitled *Provisional Guidelines of Statistics of International Tourism*,[3] underlined its "provisional character" and stressed "the need for further work in this field ... on the basis of work by appropriate national authorities, by the World Tourism Organization and by various other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations".

9. On this basis, the World Tourism Organization has been a main actor in respect of the insertion of tourism statistics within the general statistical system. Over less than 10 years, two sets of recommendations were presented to the Statistical Commission:

(a) *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics*[4] (hereinafter referred to as REC93) whose recommendations and provisional classification[5] were adopted by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session in 1993.[6] These had the following basic characteristics:

(i) The purpose had been to develop a first set of basic elements of a system of tourism statistics in order to provide users with reliable, consistent and appropriate statistical information on the socio-economic structure and development of the tourism phenomenon;

(ii) In respect of its design, the system of tourism statistics was devised to ensure the international comparability of statistics in the field of tourism, viewed as an economic activity. Special care was taken to relate its definitions and concepts to those already in use in other domains of economic analysis;

(iii) In terms of its elements, the system of tourism statistics can be defined as a set of components, of a statistical nature, comprising the statistical sources

themselves (that is to say surveys, administrative records, or those of a synthetic nature like national accounts and balance of payments, etc.), the specific tools and instruments required at some stages of the process for the generation of statistics (classifications, databases etc.) and the data that result from these processes. As a consequence, the system of tourism statistics also encompasses the technical aspects of field operation, the creation of statistical infrastructure, the elaboration of the results, and the completion of the tasks leading to an integration of the data into a system of information;

(b) *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework*[7] (referred to hereinafter as REC00) which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session in 2000,[8] with the following basic characteristics:

(i) Its purpose is to further the integration of tourism into the mainstream of economic measurement and analysis by establishing a strong relationship with the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments Manual*[9] frameworks. This major focus on the structural link to the 1993 SNA and the *Balance of Payments Manual* concepts led to some necessary adjustments in the definitions and concepts that had been proposed in REC93, and these adjustments were made explicit;

(ii) In respect of design, the tourism satellite account focuses on the relationship of tourism with the main concepts and aggregates of the 1993 SNA, so that *tourism value added* can be defined as a share of *total value added*, and so that the exchange of information between the systems, as well as the sharing of analysis and statistical procedures, may be facilitated;

(iii) In respect of elements, although formally included in its conceptual framework, some of the components of *tourism demand* (like *tourism gross fixed capital formation and tourism collective consumption*) have not been developed in the tourism satellite account official publication as consistently as *tourism consumption* (defined in relationship with the concept of *household effective consumption* of the 1993 SNA and established according to types of visitors and venue of consumption) which plays the role of the basic concept of the demand approach. Other relevant elements of the tourism satellite account are *tourism industries* (defined as those productive activities that produce a principal output that has been identified as characteristic of tourism), and tourism characteristics products, both being characterized in terms of specific lists[10] based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3,[11] and the Central Product Classification (CPC), Version 1.0.[12] Lastly, the impact of the activities of visitors on employment and the conditions of work of workers in tourism industries are also part of the tourism satellite account conceptual framework.

10. Pursuant to the above-mentioned 1978 provisional guidelines on international tourism statistics, the same process was followed in the setting up of REC93 and REC00 and consisted of:

- Methodological research and proposals for standards developed by different international organizations.
- Collection of country experiences.

- Organization of international conferences by the World Tourism Organization (Ottawa, 1991; Nice, France, 1999) where the basic elements of the future proposal of new international standards were presented and discussed.
- Setting up of an inter-institutional alliance involving both producers and users, national and international organizations, in order to structure a final version for submission to the Statistical Commission (Rec00).

11. These processes entailed a tremendous effort both financial and organizational. Table 1 describes the process that unfolded during the period from March 1994 to November 1999 in developing the tourism satellite account conceptual framework.

Table 1
Elements of the process of developing the tourism satellite account conceptual framework

Organization	*Work began (month/year)*	*Number of participating countries*[a]	*Number of meetings*[b,c]	*Tourism satellite account drafts prepared*
World Tourism Organization	March 1994	37[d]	8	6[e]
OECD	June 1994	29	11	6
Eurostat	October 1998	6	3	0[f]

[a] Average number of countries participating in the meetings.
[b] Up to end-1999.
[c] The three organizations (World Tourism Organization, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)) have always been invited to each other's meetings.
[d] An average of nine organizations and five industry representatives also participated in World Tourism Organization meetings.
[e] Up to six experts cooperated with the World Tourism Organization over this period in the preparation of the six different drafts.
[f] Eurostat did not seek to develop a new alternative to the design of a tourism satellite account.

While the World Tourism Organization initiated and led these efforts to create a new standard relating to tourism satellite accounts, a new statistical instrument for measuring the economic importance of tourism, it should nevertheless be recognized that both the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in particular, through parallel initiatives, made many significant contributions.

B. Promotion of the implementation of standards

12. The World Tourism Organization has played a central role in promoting the implementation of standards by developing different types of materials (most of them accessible online at: http://www.world-tourism.org/frameset/frame_statistics.html) and providing technical assistance in terms both of country missions and of regional and subregional seminars and workshops. Also, it should be mentioned that Eurostat represents an outstanding example of an organization that undertook other international initiatives to promote the implementation of these

standards and, in particular, that some of them have been supported by legal acts of the European Parliament of the European Union (EU).

13. Pursuant to the approval of REC00, the World Tourism Organization made one of its main leitmotifs the promotion of the setting up of an inter-institutional alliance in all countries in order to improve their system of tourism statistics as a precondition for the development of a tourism satellite account. In the view of the World Tourism Organization, such an alliance should cover both producers and users comprising, besides the national tourism administration, the national statistical office, the central bank, migration authorities (or some equivalent body in the ministry of the interior) and tourism private sector representatives. within this group, the unit in charge of the compilation of national accounts would have a special role to play, not only in the provision of information, but also, owing to its great experience, in the reconciliation of conflicting sources of information, which underlies the construction of a tourism satellite account.

14. Because of the key role that national statistical offices play in the production of tourism statistics and owing to their competence in the development of national general statistical systems, the World Tourism Organization has cooperated with regional commissions' statistical departments in organizing regional seminars and workshops. As a consequence, not only is the presence increasingly evident of national statistics office officials (both those responsible for statistics production and those responsible for national accounts) as well as that of balance-of-payments compilers, but also there is greater awareness of the benefits resulting from a tourism satellite account for the compilation of national accounts (basically in terms of improved estimation of household final consumption expenditure by products, and future insight into some less well known activities and products, like travel agencies, package tours and time-sharing arrangements etc.), in addition to the strengthening of the leadership role of national statistical offices as custodians of the general statistical system.

15. The World Tourism Organization is aware of the difficulties faced by many countries in achieving such cooperation but at the same time it has observed that these struggles are necessary if countries are to develop tourism statistics and, eventually, the tourism satellite account.

16. From this perspective, the World Tourism Organization has developed an international cooperation framework that should facilitate the set-up and continuity of an inter-institutional alliance within the countries. The initiatives tackled include cooperation with:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), by promoting channels of collaboration in some countries between the central bank and the national tourism administration in finding ways to solve the major discrepancies in their respective estimations of the expenditure associated with non-resident visitors.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO), with regard to the opportunity to define general guidelines for including a "tourism module" in the household income/expenditure surveys as a way of promoting the international comparability of expenditure associated with domestic tourism.

These initiatives are complemented by active participation in two multilateral platforms that specifically enable cooperation in particular projects with other

organizations such as Eurostat, OECD, the United Nations Statistics Divisions and others, namely:

- The Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, as a reflection of the importance of tourism in international trade in services, whose specificity needs to be recognized and also requires special treatment.
- The Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications, as classification issues are particularly important for the recognition of a tourism-specific set of activities and of commodities, and for the building of a tourism satellite account, in particular when confronting demand by visitors (consumption) and supply by resident producers.

Lastly, the World Tourism Organization is regularly invited by Eurostat and OECD to attend the meetings of their respective Working Groups on Tourism Statistics, participates in different initiatives explaining the links of the tourism satellite account with other macroeconomic frameworks such as the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual*, and promotes bilateral cooperation in relevant areas only partially covered in the present international standards of tourism statistics (for example, with OECD in the area of short-term tourism statistics and, with ILO in developing employment data in tourism industries).

17. Consistent with the objective of strengthening inter-institutional cooperation both at national and at international levels, the World Tourism Organization Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism is a key mechanism in the mission and programme of work of the World Tourism Organization in the field of statistics. It includes members and non-members of the World Tourism Organization, international organizations (like OECD, Eurostat and ILO) and relevant users of tourism statistics. It was established at the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, held in Nice, France, in June 1999, and "conceived as an inter-institutional mechanism for the mutual interchange of methodological advice and the definition of the main lines of action concerning actual and future work on statistical instruments and economic research related to the conceptual framework for the preparation of the Tourism Satellite Account".

C. Securing international comparability of tourism statistics

18. International comparability is a long-term objective, which can be secured through two procedures that complement and reinforce each other: the standardization of concepts, classifications and methods of compilation, used among reporting countries; and the dissemination of information using a formalized, uniform standard. Based on its experience in disseminating worldwide tourism statistics, the World Tourism Organization considers that the present situation is far from satisfactory and requires special attention and initiatives such as:

- Special issue: cross-national compliance or harmonization studies of concepts and procedures (*usual environment* in domestic tourism statistics and others).
- Follow-up reviews.
- Notice and constructive advice when inconsistencies and non-compliance instances emerge or are discovered.

- Occasional audit reviews to assess compliance with international standards.
- In-depth case studies to assess issues of international harmonization and compliance.
- Publication of countries or organizations found in non-compliance, with significant variations from the established standards.

19. Table 2 (referring to the period 1999-2001) summarizes the availability to a number of countries of the basic set of indicators that support at present the international comparability of tourism activity.

20. Despite the short period of time that had elapsed between the development of the two sets of recommendations, a giant step was taken in the integration of tourism statistics in the general statistical system. However, there are still important limitations in the international comparability of the available data, mainly in respect of basic characteristics such as international arrivals and departures, expenditures associated with inbound and outbound tourism and, particularly, the corresponding travel flows in the case of domestic tourism for which there is still no comparative international data series.

21. A particularly significant case is that of the European Union (EU) and also, to a lesser extent, that of those countries that are candidates to join EU in 2004. It constitutes the only known example where a special effort has been made to harmonize the observation tools used to obtain a uniform set of data associated with the tourism activity of residents (indeed, a legal norm forces all countries to use the same definitions and classifications). However, important limitations still remain, in regard, for example, to the different operative approaches to the concept of *usual environment* by the different countries and the fact that no intra- or extra-EU-15 net flows of arrivals and departures have been published as yet (as is also the case for international transactions of goods and services).

Table 2
Availability of basic indicators of tourism activity, EU, OECD and the regional commissions, 1999-2001

(Number by countries)

	Total number of countries[a]	*EU*		*OECD*	*Regional commission*				
					ECLAC	*ESCWA*	*ECA*	*ECE*	*ESCAP*
Basic indicator (20)	*207*	*15 MS*	*10 CC*	*30 MS*	*35 MS + 7 AM*	*13 MS*	*52 MS*	*48 MS*	*43 MS + 9 AM*
Inbound tourism									
Arrivals									
Visitors	111	6	10	17	32	7	19	29	24
Tourists (overnight visitors)	184	14	10	26	40	12	43	46	43
Same-day visitors	91[b]	7	6	14	31	4	13	24	19
Arrivals by country of origin	193[c]	14	10	29	41	12	46	46	48
Arrivals by mode of transport	150	9	10	21	39	6	34	32	39
Arrivals by purpose of visit									
Leisure, recreation and holidays	134	7	6	15	32	6	30	25	41
Business and professional	128	7	6	15	32	5	29	25	37
Other purpose	123	7	5	15	29	6	28	23	37
Overnight stays and length of stay									
Overnight stays in H&S	116	14	10	24	19	10	23	43	21
Overnight stays in CE	73	14	10	25	12	2	14	39	6
ALS of non-resident tourists	103	8	9	17	26	8	16	27	26
Tourism expenditure in country of reference	176	15	10	30	40	11	42	44	39
Domestic tourism									
Overnight stay in H&S	85	14	9	26	9	5	17	40	14
Overnight stay in CE	51	14	9	25	4	1	7	36	3
Outbound tourism									
Departures	100	12	10	26	22	4	12	35	27
Tourism expenditure in other countries	148	15	10	30	35	7	33	42	31
Tourism activities									
Hotels and similar establishments									
Number of rooms	167	13	9	28	40	12	35	40	40
Number of bed places	139	12	10	22	25	11	32	42	29
Occupancy rate	149	14	10	29	28	9	35	44	33
Average length of stay (residents and non-residents)	101	7	10	18	21	3	20	34	23

Note: MS: Member State.
CC: Candidate countries.
AM: Associate members.
H&S: Hotels and similar establishments.
CE: All types of tourism accommodation establishments.
ALS: Average length of stay.
ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
ESCWA: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.
ECA: Economic Commission for Africa.
ECE: Economic Commission for Europe.
ESCAP: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

[a] Only eight having the whole set of basic indicators.
[b] For 25 countries, referring to cruise passengers.
[c] For 88 countries, arrivals by country of nationality; for 96, by country of residence; and for 9, both by country of nationality and by country of residence.

22. In the last three years, the World Tourism Organization has carried out studies related both to the applicability of some elements of the conceptual framework of tourism statistics (like the *usual environment*, probably the fundamental concept that underlies the design of the system of tourism statistics[11]), and to the tools used to measure some of the basic variables (specifically, the analysis of data on arrivals and departures at national borders, and the analysis of surveys of tourism expenditure associated with inbound tourism).

23. Both studies were designed to evaluate the quality and comparability of the data obtained in a relevant number of countries and the final result stressed the need to undertake specific initiatives in order to achieve improvement in both areas.

24. Also, in a significant number of countries (about 40 have developed a tourism satellite account exercise or plan to develop one in 2004-2005, among which are countries as diverse as Canada, Costa Rica, France, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America), tourism satellite account development has revealed some challenges that had not been expected before this type of exercise was initiated, with regard to the credibility of a good part of the available tourism statistics, which have been (and still are) mainly associated with tourism demand. These challenges are very diverse but all correspond to the fundamental nature of tourism satellite account as a tool for the integration of scattered tourism data. They encompass:

- Lack of uniformity in the classifications and definitions used for the same variables in different sources (for example, accommodation).
- Confrontation between supply and demand with regard to which products are supplied by tourism industries to visitors, both residents and non-residents.
- New users' needs, with respect, for instance, to some characteristics of the trip and/or of the visitors themselves that are usually not included in the main statistical operations in the field of tourism (such as, organization of the trip, size of the travel group, identification of same-day visitors etc.).

III. Looking into the future: work programme of the World Tourism Organization for the period 2004-2006

A. Keeping relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics

25. Based on its experience in the development of tourism statistics, the World Tourism Organization considers that there is currently no need for fundamental or comprehensive changes to both sets of international standards approved by the Statistical Commission, as such changes would impede the process of implementation which in most countries is presently under way.

26. Additionally, REC00 undertook to provide an update of various concepts, definitions, aggregates and classifications that had been elaborated in REC93, owing mostly to the fact that the first set of recommendations had been developed before an awareness and appreciation of the linkage between statistics of macroeconomic aspects of tourism and the System of National Accounts were developed and communicated to a broad constituency of tourism statisticians and users; and

secondarily because the REC93 recommendations had been formulated before the 1993 SNA was itself finalized and approved. These updates refer to:

- Some changes in the scope of the concept of *visitor consumption* which, besides its component representing *visitor final consumption expenditure in cash* (always the major component of total consumption of or on behalf of visitors, which in REC93 was considered equivalent to *visitor consumption* or *tourism demand*) now also includes *tourism consumption expenditure in kind*, *tourism social transfers in kind* and *tourism business expenses*.
- New aggregates of interest regarding the measurement of the economic impacts of tourism, namely, *tourism collective consumption*, *tourism employment*, *tourism value added*, *tourism gross fixed capital formation* etc.
- Significant changes in the definition of some concepts (for instance, that of domestic tourism, which specifies that the concept refers to the tourism activity of resident visitors within the economic territory of the country of reference, specification of which was not part of the previous REC93 definition, which led to the exclusion altogether from domestic tourism consumption, of tourism expenditures by visitors leaving the country undertaken before departure or after their return within their country of residence).
- Change and development of classifications to be used in tourism statistics (for instance, the inclusion of lists of tourism characteristic products and activities, based respectively on CPC, Version 1.0, and ISIC, Rev.3).
- Other minor amendments.

27. Although one has to take into consideration the priority of consolidating the present process of implementation of international standards, it is also true that both the experience of producers and users of tourism statistics at the national level and the processes of revision that are currently under way at the international level make it necessary to set up a mechanism by which individual countries and international organizations might formulate suggestions that would make it possible to evaluate, and at some point in time to initiate, a new process directed towards a third set of recommendations.

28. In this context, it is particularly relevant to mention the ongoing revision of ISIC, Rev.3 and CPC, Version 1.0. Both revisions have a direct influence on tourism statistics not only because of their direct relationship with the classifications of tourism characteristic products and activities, but also because of their relationship with the correspondence between CPC and the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS). This is also the case for the revision of the fifth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual* regarding the definition of *residence*, which affects the coverage of the *travel* item, as well as of *inbound tourism consumption* and *outbound tourism consumption*. No revision of REC93 and REC00 could be considered in isolation from those processes.

29. Looking into the future, the starting point of any process aimed at collecting proposals of updating should refer to the present conceptual framework of both sets of international standards and take the form of an open list of different issues based on the typology already developed by the Statistical Commission when proposing a

continuous updating mechanism of the 1993 SNA with the relevant adaptation to tourism statistics.

30. The World Tourism Organization presents to the Statistical Commission for consideration, a typology of classes of updates and revisions that would offer, in its opinion, the best approach to characterizing potential updates in order to sustain the relevance of the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics:

(a) Amendments that do not require major changes to key concepts, or data-collection and compilation systems, such as:

(i) Editorial amendments: pertaining to wording errors, and apparent contradictions, as well as translation errors that affect neither core concepts nor the structure of the system;

(ii) Clarification beyond dispute: pertaining to cases where an unambiguous clarification can be made;

(iii) Interpretation: referring to cases where a new situation arises for which the treatment in existing recommendations may not be clear;

(b) Changes to the basic conceptual framework, requiring changes in key concepts, that would impact data collection, compilation processes and analytical results. In these instances, suggested changes should be proposed on a case-by-case basis, including a precise justification, a discussion of the possible timing of the introduction of the identified change, the link with available comparable data across countries, and the consistency with other macroeconomic statistics frameworks. In all cases, such major suggested changes should be based on statistical experience and evidence.

31. Specifically, the World Tourism Organization understands that the updating process should, as a general requirement:

(a) Focus on a number of specific issues related to the conceptual framework of REC93 and REC00;

(b) Address users' needs (that is to say, quality elements related to these issues);

(c) Take into account the feasibility or adequacy of the suggested changes.

32. Provided that the Statistical Commission supports the above-mentioned basis guidelines, the World Tourism Organization proposes to launch and coordinate the current updating process in a three-phased initiative:

- Phase I: The World Tourism Organization would communicate this initiative to all countries (whether or not World Tourism Organization member States) and collect from them information on those issues that they considered to be in need of some sort of update. This process would be developed via e-mail and using a formalized questionnaire to be addressed to national tourism administrations, national statistical offices and central banks. This phase should be finalized by April 2005.

- Phase II: Once this information was collected and processed, the World Tourism Organization would distribute it to those international organizations and institutions with responsibility and experience (either as producers or users) in the field of tourism-related statistics and tourism analysis, in order

that they might collect, should they consider it appropriate, new proposals and suggestions from members and also from units in the organizations with competence in areas related to tourism statistics, national accounts, balance of payments and classifications. This phase should be initiated during the first quarter of 2005, and finalized in the course of the last quarter of 2005.

- Phase III: Based on the outcomes of phases I and II, the World Tourism Organization would prepare a detailed project document describing the contents of the proposed initiative for updating the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics, including its agenda, work programme, timetable, resource implications and decision-making process, and would present it to the Statistical Commission at its 2007 session.

33. Throughout this process, the World Tourism Organization will ask the advice and support of its Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism (see annex for the composition of the Committee) in the design and completion of phases I and III, as well as in the discussion of the final document to be presented to the Statistical Commission; also, it will extend invitations to non-members countries, organizations and institutions to participate in its meetings and initiatives throughout this process, in order to enlarge the perspective of both producers and users.

34. Lastly, the Committee will determine, according to the number and type of suggestions received in phases I and II, whether it is relevant to create a temporary working group of the appropriate parties that would strive to solve any particular problem. If this should be the case, the World Tourism Organization would ask the Statistical Commission to postpone the presentation of the final report initially planned for the Commission's 2007 session.

B. Other planned initiatives

35. The World Tourism Organization also presents to the Statistical Commission for its consideration the following initiatives in relation to the different fields mentioned throughout this report:

In the field of standard setting:

36. The World Tourism Organization intends to proceed further in deepening the relationship between the tourism satellite account and the 1993 SNA of which it is a satellite. In that connection, the World Tourism Organization plans to pursue its current consultations with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) regarding overlapping topics.

In the field of the promotion of the implementation of standards:

37. The World Tourism Organization intends to pursue its efforts to provide countries with extended guidelines on improving their statistical basis for setting up a tourism satellite account. This will be achieved by:

- Increasing the review of country experience and finding means to improve communication.

- Improving the direct sharing of experiences across countries with similar conditions.

In this connection, the World Tourism Organization considers that it would be important for those countries that have developed tourism satellite account exercises to share their experiences with other countries that are starting that process. It is understood that, in order to avoid overloading the responsible units (usually based in the national accounts departments of the national statistical offices) with new demands, this eventual collaboration should be limited to a reasonable number of issues and requested according to an agreed calendar.

In the field of the international comparability of tourism statistics disseminated through the World Tourism Organization:

38. Although this has been carried out with some delay within the context of the work developed by IMF, OECD, Eurostat and others, the World Tourism Organization has nonetheless achieved an ambitious task in adapting to the field of tourism statistics, the international guidelines for the presentation of statistical data and metadata promoted by those organizations.

39. In view of the fact that the level of development and consolidation of tourism statistics is very different from the level of development and consolidation in other areas of economic statistics, this work of adaptation has been presented at the eight subregional workshops on tourism statistics and the elaboration of a tourism satellite account carried out throughout 2003, with the objective of explaining the importance of documenting the sources of information that are being used for tourism statistics, and how the tourism variables are being observed. This format has induced countries to develop a more systematic and comprehensive approach to their statistical sources. They have been encouraged to use it within the process of evaluating the information that is available for the setting up of their system of tourism statistics, and as a basis for compiling a tourism satellite account.

Notes

[1] The agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/232 of 23 December 2003, as set forth in the annex thereto. The text of article 13 is as follows:

"Article 13

"Statistical services

"1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to strive for the maximum cooperation, the elimination of all undesirable duplication between them and the most efficient use of personnel in their respective collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. They agree to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information to guarantee close coordination in their respective statistical-related initiatives and to minimize the burden placed upon Governments and other organizations from which such information may be collected.

"2. The World Tourism Organization recognizes that the United Nations is the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of tourism statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

"3. The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics on tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system."

[2] Commission of the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations and World Bank, *System of National Accounts, 1993* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4).

[3] Statistical Papers, No. 62 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVII.6).

[4] Ibid., No. 83 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.6).

[5] Ibid., parts one and two.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 6* (E/1993/26), para. 154 (a).

[7] Statistical Papers, No. 80 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.9).

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), para. 18 (a).

[9] Washington, D.C., IMF, 1993.

[10] These lists of activities and products have to be kept in line with the outcome of the revision of ISIC, Rev.3, and CPC, version 1.0, scheduled for 2007 by the Statistical Commission.

[11] Statistical Papers, No. 4, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11).

[12] Ibid., No. 77, Ver. 1.0 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.5).

[13] The concept of *usual environment* is introduced in REC93, part one, chap. III, para. 22, as follows:

"The main purpose of introducing the concept 'usual environment' is to exclude from the concept of 'visitor' persons commuting every day or week between their home and place of work or study, or other places frequently visited. The definition of *usual environment* is therefore based on the following criteria:

"(a) Minimum distance travelled to consider a person a visitor;

"(b) Minimum duration of absence from usual place of residence;

"(c) Minimum change between localities or administrative territories."

Annex

Composition of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism

Officers

Chairman: France

Vice-Chairmen: Canada,* Spain*

Members

Cuba, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Sri Lanka

Representative of the associate members

Aruba

Representatives of the affiliate members

Centro Internazionale di Studi sull'Economia Turistica (CISET), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH & RA), MasterCard International

Observers

Non-member States

Australia, Singapore, Sweden, United States of America

Institutions

Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Ufficio Italiano dei Cambi, World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

* Ex officio members.

United Nations E/CN.3/2004/14

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2-5 March 2004
Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda*
Economic statistics: International Comparison Programme

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report prepared by the International Comparison Programme Global Office of the World Bank. The Commission is requested to review the ongoing activities and comment on future plans.

* E/CN.3/2004/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2003/24), para. 1.

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Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

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I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-third session, the United Nations Statistical Commission discussed and endorsed a new strategic framework for the International Comparison Programme (ICP), including an international governance arrangement and a broad implementation plan, prepared by the World Bank. The Commission recognized the financial and in-kind support already secured as a result of a cost-sharing arrangement established by the sponsors of the Programme, and supported the launch of the new millennium round of ICP in the period from 2002 to 2005.

2. Accordingly, a consortium comprising national, regional and international agencies was founded, and an Executive Board was established. The ICP Executive Board, equivalent to a board of directors in the corporate model, is responsible for the successful implementation of the new millennium round of ICP. An international secretariat (ICP Global Office) has been set up and charged with the day-to-day management and coordination of the global programme.

3. Regional executing agencies have been established to implement and monitor the programme in their respective regions. National coordinators have been appointed in the majority of the participating countries, and preparatory work is under way for the launch of national surveys in 2004. A total of 120 countries have expressed interest in taking part, in addition to the 42 countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union and are taking part in the OECD/Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) comparisons. Significant progress has been made on the resource mobilization front. Over 80 per cent of the estimated total of $38 million has already been mobilized in cash and in kind. A concerted effort is under way to raise the rest with the help of the Executive Board. In the meantime, alternative cost-saving plans are being considered by the Global Office and will be presented at the next Executive Board meeting, scheduled for 10 and 11 February 2004 in Geneva. The report of the Board will be submitted to the Commission in the form of a room document.

4. The present report provides information on the status of the global and regional activities of the Programme since the last meeting of the Commission, in March 2003, and invites the Commission to review the progress that has been made to date.

II. Organizational and financial status at the regional and global levels

A. International Comparison Programme Executive Board

5. A governance structure has been established as a partnership-based programme. A consortium of national, regional and international institutions, under the auspices of a global Executive Board, coordinates the global programme. The Board is responsible for identifying priority areas, setting short- and long-term goals and overseeing the successful implementation of the Programme. The membership of the Board reflects a mixture of the main stakeholders — eminent national statisticians, experienced managers and representatives of regional and international agencies. Dennis Trewin, head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), chairs

the Board. The Board meets twice a year, while other discussions are conducted via teleconferencing and electronic mail.

B. Global and regional coordinating agencies

6. An ICP international secretariat (Global Office) has been established and charged with the day-to-day management of the programme. On the regional fronts, coordinating agencies have been designated and mandated to coordinate and manage regional activities in their respective areas. They have subsequently established regional ICP offices headed by regional coordinators.

7. The designated regional agencies are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with technical assistance from ABS for Asia and the Pacific region; the African Development Bank (AfDB) for Africa; the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Statistics Canada for the Latin America and the Caribbean region; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for Western Asia; and the Statistical Secretariat for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Statistics (Goskomstat) for the CIS region. Regional advisory boards have been established and have been active in fund-raising activities and supporting regional agencies in the preparatory phase of the programme.

8. National coordinators have been appointed for over 100 of the participating countries, and preparatory work is under way for the launch of national surveys in 2004.

C. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Statistical Office of the European Communities

9. OECD and Eurostat are represented on the ICP Executive Board. The global Programme is run in close collaboration with the managers of the OECD and Eurostat programmes. The OECD and Eurostat programmes are, however, run independently of the global ICP formal management structure, and will not necessarily abide by the decisions of the Executive Board. Seventeen "ring countries", including three OECD members, have been selected to facilitate the linking of regional results and the generation of globally consistent purchasing power parity estimates.

D. Financial status

10. Although significant progress has been made on the resource mobilization front, in general the response to fund-raising efforts has not met expectations. Currently, the programme faces a shortfall of $6.8 million. A concerted effort is under way to close the gap, with the help of the Executive Board. This effort resulted in securing a grant of 3 million Canadian dollars from the Canadian International Development Agency for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, thus reducing the global gap from 8.7 to 6.8 million United States dollars. Overall, the Global Office believes that there is adequate support for the programme to

proceed to a slightly revised timetable while various options for finding the remaining funds are being investigated.

III. Research and development

11. The conduct of targeted research focusing on the collection of prices, the measurement of expenditure weights, purchasing power parities (PPP) aggregation and regional linking methods is essential for improving the quality and relevance of ICP data. Accordingly, priority has been given to two major areas. First, and of most immediate importance, is the resolution of a set of essential problems relating to the methods of developing the list of specifications, collecting price data, compiling expenditure weights and determining prices of "comparison resistant" services, such as medical services and construction projects. The second priority area is the linking of regional price parities to form international price parities and improving the quality and relevance of PPP estimates for poverty measurement and monitoring work.

12. Several workshops bringing together regional coordinators and experts have been held. The first, in Luxembourg from 24 to 28 March 2003, included representatives from all regions except Latin America. The second and third meetings took place in Washington, D.C., followed by one in Tunis in November 2003, hosted by AfDB. Together the workshops have covered the preparation of the list of products to be included in the price surveys, the requirements for national account expenditures at the basic heading level, alternative regional linking methods and the detailed work plan and timetable for regional and global activities up to the commencement of the surveys in July 2004.

A. International Comparison Programme Technical Advisory Group

13. The ICP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) had its first meeting from 19 to 21 May 2003 in Washington, D.C., to address a range of pressing technical issues. The group provided concrete recommendations that helped to guide the preparation of the ICP handbook and establish firm directions for the implementation of the Programme. TAG is scheduled to meet again in the first quarter of 2004. The purpose of the meeting is to review the overall content of draft chapters of the ICP handbook and pending substantive issues, and also to approve previously reviewed and subsequently completed chapters. TAG is also looking at a cheaper, and easier to implement, but reliable option for linking the regions. Alan Heston has been named the new chair of TAG.

B. Structured product description

14. The quality of past ICP price surveys has suffered due to inadequate documentation of product descriptions, because it either permitted comparisons of the prices of unlike items between countries or limited bilateral comparisons to identical items that may have been uncharacteristic of one or both countries. The forthcoming ICP exercise will use a more systematic, structured approach to product description, based on that used in some national statistical offices for the consumer price index.

15. The new approach, called structured product description (SPD) uses a set of price-determining characteristics for each ultimate class of product, of which there are about 800 in the ICP for household consumption expenditure. These ultimate classes are defined by a more detailed version of the international Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose. In the SPD for each of the roughly 800 ultimate classes, there are 5 to 20 or more variables, each of whose value defines the level of a quality dimension of that class. Some of these variables are continuous, but most are quantal, comprising several levels or varieties for each quality dimension.

16. The database formed from these structured descriptions and the prices collected for them will permit more precise matching of items between countries, and, in some cases, permit the use of statistical models to make comparisons when an exact product match is not possible. This will improve the quality of price comparisons between countries, both in comparing like with like, and in basing comparisons on a more characteristic array of product varieties for each country in the comparison.

17. The current timetable specifies 1 April 2004 as the start for the data collection. Although significant progress has been made in most regions in preparation for the price data collection for food, clothing and footwear, several of the regions will not be ready to begin it on 1 April 2004. For example, although Asia will have determined a product list by April 2004, the region still needs to do more fund-raising for the data collection work. The Africa region has the required funding, but is working on mechanisms to expedite the disbursement of funds to the countries. This will delay price collection in the region even though the product lists will be ready by April 2004. Overall, the timetable has been revised to reflect the current situation in the regions and the start date shifted to 1 July 2004, with some countries starting on 1 October 2004. The new start date will be further discussed at the Executive Board meeting scheduled for February 2004.

C. International Comparison Programme handbook

18. The ICP handbook establishes a set of principles and operational procedures, and serves as comprehensive reference material and as a step-by-step guidebook for ICP.

19. The structure, content and chapter ordering of the manual were reviewed by TAG. Priority is given to chapters necessary for conducting the first regional training workshops. The working drafts of the first five chapters, covering introduction, governance arrangement, compilation of expenditure weights, pricing concepts and preparation of SPDs, have been drafted and are accessible on the ICP web site, at http://www.worldbank.org/data/icp/index.htm. Chapters dealing with price collection for consumption goods and services and data-editing procedures are being finalized and prepared for translation. Chapters on government expenditure, capital formation, and regional linking methods have also been drafted.

D. Software for collecting and processing data — the consumer price index/ICP tool pack

20. Critical issues relating to the generation of data were identified in the report on evaluation of ICP presented to the Commission in 1999 (E/CN.3/1999/8) as being at the centre of problems with previous rounds of ICP. The primary objective of the tool pack is to improve data by building national and international data-collection and -processing capacity. Its aim is thus to strengthen key areas of data development, including by (a) supporting national price collection efforts, (b) standardizing price collection and gap-filling methods within and across countries, (c) permitting data validation through a systematic procedure as the price data are moved back and forth through a hierarchy of processing to regional and global offices, (d) ensuring data collection consistency over time and space, and (e) facilitating data archiving, analysis and dissemination.

21. The tool pack is an integrated system with two physically separate modules: the price collection module (PCM) and the administration and analysis module (AAM). The separation of the two modules facilitates easy deployment of the system in the field where only price collection is carried out, while reserving the more advanced administration and analysis module for the country management centres.

22. The beta version has been deployed and tested in 12 countries. Valuable comments and recommendations on how to enhance and simplify the system have been incorporated in the final version of PCM, which is expected to be ready by the end of February 2004, while AAM will be available for distribution by the end of March 2004. Both tools will be available in six languages. Training programmes are scheduled in February for Africa, Asia and Western Asia and in March for the CIS and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

E. Purchasing power of the poor

23. One of the main objectives of this round is to compute poverty-specific purchasing power parities to support efforts towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It is believed that ICP will go a long way towards allowing more accurate estimations relating to people living in poverty, and to that end promising research is under way, with the objective of integrating poverty-specific PPPs within the mainstream of the ICP work. Professor Angus Deaton (Princeton University) is leading this effort, in close collaboration with other eminent researchers, including Professor Alan Heston (University of Pennsylvania), Professor Erwin Diewert (University of British Columbia), Professor Prasada Rao (University of Queensland) and Professor Dipankor Coondoo (Indian Statistical Institute).

24. Two pilot studies conducted in Asia and Africa suggest that poverty-specific PPPs can be generated using data from household expenditure surveys. The findings of the two studies are significant in that they provide a basis for both cross-country and intra-country poverty analysis.

F. International Comparison Programme web site

25. The ICP web site is the main source of information about the current status of the project and has recently been redesigned and upgraded in order to improve communication between the Global Office, partners and stakeholders and better disseminate news about the Programme. Among other things, the new web site features a detailed overview of ICP and PPP comparisons and the 2003-2005 global round and contains information on coverage, governance, the ICP handbook and tool pack, etc. It also provides useful links to ICP partners and the regional offices.

IV. Regional programmes

A. Africa

26. The programme in Africa is progressing well. The primary implementing agency, AfDB, has created a strong ICP unit staffed with one regional coordinator, five senior experts, five research associates and one administrative support staff member. An integrated work plan has been developed to address both the immediate objective of data collection and the longer-term goal of statistical capacity-building. Forty-nine countries have indicated their intention to take part. The countries have selected national coordinators and have prepared national implementation plans.

27. The first regional meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 2003. The main objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for heads of national statistical offices and national accounts and consumer price index (CPI) managers to discuss and agree on the implementation plan of ICP-Africa. Over 180 participants, representing participating countries and various international, regional and subregional organizations, attended the inaugural meeting.

28. Statistical assessments have been undertaken in over 44 countries, with the objective of determining the level of ICP participation — at the gross domestic product (GDP) or consumption level — and assessing technical and financial assistance needs. A comprehensive report is under preparation and will be used to design national strategies within the general framework of ICP-Africa.

29. The first meeting of the Governing Board of ICP-Africa was held in Addis Ababa on 24 July 2003. The primary objectives of the meeting were to (a) discuss the status report on activities undertaken since the establishment of the Board in December 2002, (b) consider the action plans developed by AfDB, (c) consider the resolutions of the first regional meeting of ICP-Africa, (d) discuss the preliminary findings of statistical capacity assessment undertaken in 40 countries, with the objective of identifying priority areas and setting short- and long-term goals, (e) agree on a common strategy to promote national statistical programmes and (f) consider alternative modalities for the coordination of various subregional statistical programmes in the areas of price and national accounts.

30. A regional meeting for national coordinators was convened in South Africa from 2 to 19 December 2003 to discuss financial disbursement and procurement issues, to review the first set of SPDs, covering food, clothing and footwear, and to discuss and agree on a plan of action for the compilation of expenditure weights. A

two-week regional training workshop is planned for end of March 2004, focusing on price data collection and national accounts compilation.

B. Asia and the Pacific

31. The programme in the Asia and the Pacific region is coordinated by ADB, in close cooperation with ABS and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. A Regional Advisory Board consisting of representatives of regional agencies and prominent national statistical managers has been established and is actively involved in fund-raising activities. The Advisory Board met in June 2003 to discuss and comment on an implementation plan jointly developed by ADB and ABS.

32. The first regional meeting was held on 19 and 20 June 2003 with the heads of national statistical offices to discuss data requirements and resource needs of ICP-Asia and the Pacific. The regional programme will cover 23 countries, which have been divided into two groups: those measuring PPPs for the full GDP and those covering the consumption part of GDP.

33. The Asia and the Pacific region faces a serious challenge due to the $3.2 million budget shortfall. ADB is working in close collaboration with the Global Office and regional agencies to fill the gap. The Regional Advisory Board is meeting in December to address the issue and consider alternative implementation plans. The current work plan is to begin surveys of consumption items in July and at the same time to step up the fund-raising effort to mobilize additional resources for the remaining components of GDP, including government expenditure and capital formation.

C. Commonwealth of Independent States

34. The CIS region has a work plan in place and will soon start updating the product list used for its 2000 comparison. The region has considerable experience with ICP. The 2000 comparison was a joint effort between Goskomstat and the statistical committee of CIS. The region is receiving financial support from the Global Office.

D. Western Asia

35. Significant strides have been made in Western Asia, including the formation of a strong ICP team consisting of three regular full-time staff and a senior ICP consultant. Thirteen countries, including Iraq, have indicated their intention to take part.

36. The first regional workshop was conducted in Beirut from 24 to 27 June 2003. The second regional workshop is scheduled for 15 to 19 December, also in Beirut. A strategy paper has been developed to expedite and support the participation of Iraq. The meeting will address the budget shortfall facing the region. Though the shortfall is small compared with those of other regions, the regional coordinators believe that it requires immediate attention.

37. A Regional Executive Board has been established both to oversee the implementation of ICP-Western Asia and to assist ESCWA in the resource mobilization effort.

E. Latin America and the Caribbean

38. The programme in Latin America and the Caribbean is jointly coordinated and managed by ECLAC and Statistics Canada. The Canadian International Development Agency provided funding to implement the programme in 10 South American countries. A regional coordinating team consisting of ECLAC and Statistics Canada experts was formed and charged with the management of the programme.

39. Planning for the Latin American leg of ICP got under way in July 2003 with meetings for its two subregions designed to review in detail a list of goods and services for private consumption. The seminars owed a great deal to a previous initiative designed to harmonize the national CPIs of one of Latin America's subregions.

40. The objectives of the meetings were (a) to familiarize institutions participating in the programme with SPDs, (b) to agree on a calendar of bilateral visits as part of the preparations leading to the end-of-year meetings and (c) to ensure that participating countries' national accountants (who also attended the seminar) aligned their objectives and work plans with those of their counterparts working on CPI.

41. Two more seminars with the same country coverage were held in December 2003. Unlike the previous round, the seminars in question were designed to seek actual country approval for the selection of all those goods that will comprise the food group in the private consumption component of GDP. Because of previous efforts to harmonize CPI, and because of the relative homogeneity of the participating countries, the generation of an acceptable list of items for the region, one that combines both comparability and representativeness, is probably easier to achieve here than elsewhere. The success of the latest round of seminars owes much to these facts.

42. The Commission should note, however, that at the time of writing, the funding raised is insufficient to cover activities in all 26 countries of the regions that indicated their interest in taking part in the programme. In fact, serious planning at this stage covers no more than the 10 countries of South America where Spanish or Portuguese is the principal language. But a further fund-raising effort is under way to bring all interested countries into the ICP fold.

Annex I

International Comparison Programme Executive Board members

Dennis Trewin (Chair)	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Ifzal Ali	Asian Development Bank
Shaida Badiee	World Bank
Len Cook	Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
Enrico Giovannini	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Carlos M. Jarque	Inter-American Development Bank
Henock Kifle	African Development Bank
Ben Kiregyera	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Adarsh Kishore	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India
Li Xiaochao	National Bureau of Statistics, China
Brian Newson	Eurostat
Koffi Nguessan	Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée
Luis Machinea	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Jacob Ryten	Statistics Canada
Vladimir L. Sokolin	Goskomstat, Russian Federation
Mervat Tallawy	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Annex II

International Comparison Programme regional coordinators

Latin America and the Caribbean	Hubert Escaith	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Herber Camelo	Inter-American Development Bank
CIS	Vasily Kuznetsov	Goskomstat of Russia
	Yuri Ivanov	Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS
Western Asia	Mohammed Al-Badrawy	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Asia Pacific	Keith Blackburn	Australian Bureau of Statistics
	Bishnu D. Pant	Asian Development Bank
Africa	Michel Mouyelo-Katoula	African Development Bank
Eurostat	Silke Stapel	
OECD	David Roberts	